Collaborative Approaches to Design
THEA 4314.001 T, Th 2 – 3:15 Spring 2014
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Office Hours M-F 10-11, and by appointment
825-2361 / BAY HALL 321

Description:
Theatre Collaboration will examine the various ways of creating and utilizing the collaborative environment in the academic and professional worlds. This course will focus upon the methods of communication between the various designers and the director. Students will learn the terminology, techniques and receive hands on experience and evaluation of their collaborative creations as a part of this course. Students will be required to draw, plan and document their collaboration and technical theatre activities. This course is required for all Design/Tech Theatre majors, and suggested for Teacher Cert.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. Students will research plays and produce designs utilizing different methods of collaboration
2. Students will communicate ideas through visual collages and presentations
3. Students will work in collaborative teams to create unified theatre productions
4. Students will rotate through the positions of director and designers on these teams to better understand the process each theatre artist accesses in the design process.


If you haven’t taken Principles of Design you need this book too. Otherwise it may be a good resource for your library.

Course format
We will be having discussions in class and on-line. Be prepared by keeping up on the readings. I will post discussion questions in blackboard and you are expected to follow the conversations and participate. You will also be required to participate in class. We will be have projects and activities EVERY DAY. Don’t miss class, keep up and make sure you do quality work.

Conduct in class, computer lab, practicum, work calls and other theatre activities.
It is required you are engaged in the class and all associated activities. Your attention to lectures and demonstrations will affect your grade. As a part of your conduct it is required you turn off cell phones, to not use the computers for activities other than related to the course and to arrive at practicum and work calls suitable attired and ready to work. Also be aware that talking not related to class discussion or questions is distracting and disrespectful to your fellow students and the professor. Don’t embarrass yourself by
having your talking brought up in class or being asked to leave due to excessive talking. Failure to observe good conduct will place your grade in jeopardy and possible expulsion for class, calls and departmental activities. If you have any questions regarding conduct please consult with the instructor.

**Attendance.** (As per student handbook)
Attendance in all theatre courses is critical to your success. Your absence affects the progress of the entire class. You are allowed 2 absences. The third absence will result in your final grade being lowered by one letter. The Fourth absence will result in an F for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. **Note:** You must consult with your instructor immediately to make such and exception viable.

**Lateness:** Two late arrivals constitute one absence, if you arrive more than fifteen minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are considered by the faculty as one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to do their own work. To claim another's work as one's own constitutes plagiarism.

**Plagiarism.**
Plagiarism would be the taking of someone else's writing, creative projects, electronic media or other assignments and turning it in as your own. Using someone else work as a template or splitting the work up between several individuals also falls under this category. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Under university policy you can face severe consequences, which include probation or expulsion from the university. If you are found guilty of presenting someone else work as your own you will receive an F in the class and will be reported to the dean of students for further action.

**Misc info**

**EQUITY STATEMENT:** All persons, regardless of gender, age, class, race, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this communication course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially with your instructor or with the department chair.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Arts and Humanities requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood.
The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

*** Grade Appeal Process. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Production Meetings
You are invited to attend the production meetings for our productions to observe the collaboration process. Times will be announced as the semester progress. The Exonerated is in production while Streetcar is in progress.

Grading
Students will be graded on each assignment. You will be graded for your work, your ability to collaborate with other students in pairs and groups. You will also receive a grade from your collaborators, which will be used to evaluate your participation and ability to collaborate. The final project of a show proposal with complete design concepts will be graded as a group to be shared by the group.

Materials.
1. USB storage device – for storage of your computer designs
2. Art and Drafting materials – for presentation of your designs

Faculty Responsibility
It is to the student’s advantage to be aware of their progress in the course. At any time you would like to discuss your progress I am available during office hours or by appointment. If there are special considerations, which need to be made, please contact me directly.
**Grading breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design Project I</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>A = 1000-900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Project II</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>B = 899-800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration I</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>C = 799-700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>D = 699 - 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>F = below 600</td>
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</tbody>
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**Course Assignments - proposed, subject to change**

**Class Activity – Art walk.**

Go to the Art walk Feb 7. Scout out the event and look for potential performance venues. It starts at 5 and you can still make rehearsal. You are to report on your findings in class.

**Design I**
- Utilizing others as a sounding board to create your own ideas
- Case study of visual artists and their foray into the dramatic arts
- Pablo Picasso, David Hockney, etc,
- Freeing up your creative juices – methods of clearing the creative way
- Utilizing the ideas and techniques of others
- The designer as dramaturg. Changing the play to fit a new experience

**Project I**  Create a design utilizing the influence of another person, artist or movement.
- Present your own idea

**Designing with others - Theatrical event at the Art Walk**
- Ways of working with other individuals.
- Give and Take – the creative process of agreeing to disagree
- Working together and how to make the other see your point
- Selecting the best ideas for the project

**Project II**  Small group presentation of a design for a production.

**Collaboration I**
- Working with the Director/ Working with the Designer
- Communication visual ideas with the design impaired
- Using graphic means to communicate with others
- Managing the team and making it work

**Project III**  Having the director take the lead, create a production.
**Final Project** -  Large Budget production
- The Design Team – United We Stand
- Freeing up thinking – Group exercises
Leading and Following – communication techniques for small groups
The production and its requirements

Group Presentation. Presentation of the production, its concept, designs and planned execution of the show. It would be desirable to have this serve as a proposal for an actual production, one act or show in an experimental space. Final presentation of your work will be to the design faculty for comment and review.

Due the day of the Final Exam   Check with university schedule

Collaboration Schedule

1.1 23-Jan  Orientation and Introduction to the Collaboration Process
2.1 28-Jan  From Page to Stage/Design/Collaboration
2.2 30-Jan  TETA - No class  Read the entire book 169 pages

3.1 4-Feb  Discuss book Memory
3.2 6-Feb  Assignment 1 - Your favorite artist
7-Feb  Go to Artwalk and scout out potential for performance

4.1 11-Feb  Plays Discuss forms of literature
4.2 13-Feb  Create a short play from another form of lit

5.1 18-Feb  Play Analysis - page to stage
5.2 20-Feb  Discussion of first play

6.1 25-Feb  Text Analysis
6.2 27-Feb  Literary Theory

7.1 4-Mar  Present Analysis of Script Written and visual
6-  Present Analysis of Script Written and
7.2  Mar  visual Art Walk presentations

8.1 11-Mar  Spring Break
8.2 13-Mar  Spring Break
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-Mar</td>
<td>9.1 Collaborative Styles Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-Mar</td>
<td>9.2 Group Exercises</td>
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<td>25-Mar</td>
<td>10.1 Group presentations of working together</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-Mar</td>
<td>10.2 USITT</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-Apr</td>
<td>11.1 First Production - Outline and select play</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Apr</td>
<td>11.2 Discuss, Analysis, Research - Work day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Apr</td>
<td>12.1 Present Research and ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-Apr</td>
<td>12.2 Present Research and ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Apr</td>
<td>13.1 Project 3 - Communicating visual ideas for the design impaired</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-Apr</td>
<td>13.2 Leading and following - working in a group</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-Apr</td>
<td>14.1 Work on projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Apr</td>
<td>14.2 Present Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-Apr</td>
<td>15.1 Final project presentation</td>
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<td>1-May</td>
<td>15.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-May</td>
<td>16.1 Last day of class work on projects</td>
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<td>17.1 Final Present projects in class</td>
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Final Exam